

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of blocking or reducing access to a procoagulant molecule membrane by a coagulation molecule, comprising;

~~subjecting a procoagulant molecule to lactadherin, a fragment of lactadherin, a functional equivalent of lactadherin, or a functional equivalent of a fragment of lactadherin.~~

- a) providing a procoagulant membrane including a binding site containing phosphatidylserine; and
- b) blocking the binding site of the procoagulant membrane by binding lactadherin thereto thereby making the site unavailable for interaction by a coagulation molecule.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method of Claim 1, wherein:

~~a cell membrane or a fragment thereof~~ biological particle comprises the procoagulant molecule membrane, the biological particle comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of a platelet, a apoptotic cell, a necrotic cell, a blood cell, and a vascular cell.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method of Claim 1, wherein:

the procoagulant molecule membrane comprises a phospholipid or a lipoprotein.

Claim 4 (original): The method of Claim 3, wherein:

the coagulation molecule comprises a blood coagulation protein.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method of Claim 3, wherein:

the coagulation molecule [[is]] comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of prothrombin, factor V, factor Va, factor VII, factor VIIa, factor VIII, factor VIIIa, ~~faxtor~~ factor IX, factor IXa, factor Xa and factor X.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method of Claim [[4]] 2, wherein:

the procoagulant molecule comprises phosphatidylserine (PS).
the blood cell comprises a lymphocyte, a monocyte, a neutrophil, or
an erythrocyte that has been stimulated or stressed to expose
phosphatidylserine.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): A method of blocking or reducing binding of a ligand to a cell membrane binding site, comprising:

subjecting a cell membrane binding site to lactadherin, a fragment of lactadherin, a functional equivalent of lactadherin, or a functional equivalent of a fragment of lactadherin.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 7, wherein:

the ligand comprises a blood coagulation molecule selected from the group consisting of factor V, factor Va, factor VIIa, factor VIII, factor VIIIa, factor IXa, and factor X.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 8, wherein:

the cell membrane site comprises a phospholipid.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): A method of inhibiting or slowing blood coagulation, comprising:

subjecting a predetermined amount of blood to an effective amount of lactadherin, a fragment of lactadherin, a functional equivalent of lactadherin, or a functional equivalent of a fragment of lactadherin.

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Claim 11 (withdrawn): A method of inhibiting or slowing blood clotting, comprising:
administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of lactadherin, a fragment of lactadherin, a functional equivalent of lactadherin, or a functional equivalent of a fragment of lactadherin.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): A method of preventing or reducing inflammation, comprising:
administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of lactadherin, a fragment of lactadherin, a functional equivalent of lactadherin, or a functional equivalent of a fragment of lactadherin.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): A method of inhibiting or slowing blood coagulation, comprising:
administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of lactadherin, a fragment of lactadherin, a functional equivalent of lactadherin, or a functional equivalent of a fragment of lactadherin.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): An anticoagulant reagent, comprising:
lactadherin, a fragment of lactadherin, a functional equivalent of lactadherin, or a functional equivalent of a fragment of lactadherin.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): A pharmaceutical composition, comprising the reagent of Claim 14 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): A method of removing a phospholipid from a biological fluid, comprising:

- a) providing a biological fluid including, or suspect of including, a phospholipid;
- b) subjecting the biological fluid to a suitable amount of a binding agent selected from the group consisting of lactadherin, a fragment of lactadherin, a functional equivalent of lactadherin, and a functional equivalent of a fragment of lactadherin;
- c) allowing binding between the phospholipid and the binding agent; and
- d) removing the binding agent with any phospholipid bound thereto.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 16, wherein:

the binding agent is provided in a sepharose matrix.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): A kit for removing a phospholipid from a biological fluid, comprising:

- a) a binding agent selected from the group consisting of lactadherin, a fragment of lactadherin, a functional equivalent of lactadherin, and a functional equivalent of a fragment of lactadherin; and
- b) instructions for use of the binding agent.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): The kit of Claim 18, further comprising:

a sepharose matrix comprising the binding agent.